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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,111	03/14/2001	Neo Chee Peng	M4065.0394/P394	1491

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EXAMINER

ASHLEY, BOYER DOLINGER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3724

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/805,111

Applicant(s)

PENG, NEO CHEE

Examiner

Boyer D. Ashley

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 and 9-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 & 6. 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3724

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 6 and 9-15 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 8.
2. Applicant's election of Group I (claims 1-8) and Species I (claims 5) in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Singapore on 12/19/00. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 200,007,526-7 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because of the following reasons: the reference numbers "101", "200", "150", "100", "400", "401", "402" (see Figures 1a, 2, 5, 6A) should be underlined; the sign "100" in Figure 1B is missing a lead line; the lead line for "410" in Figure 9a is not pointing to anything. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

On page 7 the specification suggests that a mechanical sensor is used for sensing whether or not a tape burr is present or not. However, the specification is silence as to what type of mechanical sensor that is capable of this function or how the sensor performs this function. Therefore, it is not clear how the tape burr is detected.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the expressions "a wafer" on lines 3 and 9 appears to be a double inclusion of the wafer set forth on line 1.

In claim 7, there is no positive antecedent basis for "the edge". The expression "a wafer" appears to be a double inclusion of the wafer set forth on line 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 307,509, hereinafter EP '509.

EP '509 discloses the same invention as claimed including, for example: a support (108) for holding a wafer having a protective tape thereon; a cutting element (65/103/105) placed at a first predetermined distance from the support for moving relative to the support; a sensor (110/90) capable of detecting if a protective tape burr is formed on the wafer; and a circuit (inherent if there is a sensor) capable of initiating corrective actions if a tape burr is detected.

As to claims 2-4, the circuit of EP '509 is capable of initiating actions by stopping the cutting operation; by stopping further movement of the wafer to a grinding area; and by preventing backgrinding.

As to claim 5, the sensor of EP '509 is a mechanical sensor.

As to claim 8, the sensor of EP '509 is behind the cutting element because it is the only location that allows for detecting action by the cutting element.

As to the phrases "for detecting ... by said cutting element" (claim 1), "for initiating corrective ... element" (claim 1), "the circuit for ... apparatus" (claim 2), "the circuit for ... area" (claim 3), "the circuit ... the wafer" (claim 4) do not serve to further

Art Unit: 3724

limit the claims because it is merely functional/intended use not defining any specific structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP '509.

EP '509 discloses a first predetermined distance but is silent as to the specific distance of 0.5 mm from the edge of the wafer. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the predetermined distance of 0.5 mm in order to facilitate the sensor's ability to sense based on the tolerances of the sensor, because it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

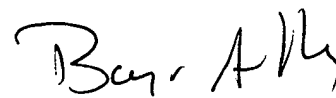
Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boyer Ashley whose telephone number is 703-308-1845. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday between 7:30am and 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 703-308-1082.

Art Unit: 3724

In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.



Boyer D. Ashley
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

bda
April 21, 2003